

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendment requested by the Examiner with regard to claim 7 has been made. The objection to claim 7 has thus been overcome.

Claims 1-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al. in view of Mao et al. Television channels are typically separately selectable at a subscriber television by entering a request for a television channel number. Typically, a remote control is used to either enter the number directly or to scroll through the channels with an up or down button. The television channel selection determines what is shown on the subscriber television. In a particular embodiment, a channel map is created and downloaded to the settop boxes identifying which signals are associated with which channel numbers. A series of successive images delivered “as a television channel” will be displayed on a subscriber television when the associated television channel number has been selected.

Wang discloses an interactive system in which a user through a settop box can communicate with a browser application in the headend. The user is thus controlling the internet information that will be processed and displayed. The information will be sent to the requesting user. Wang fails to disclose, as the Examiner concedes, sending the information on a television channel separately selectable on any of a plurality of subscriber televisions to permit simultaneous viewing. Indeed, there is no indication that a selectable television channel number is assigned to the information sent to the user.

The Examiner provides no incentive for making the information privately selected by one user available on a television channel accessible by any of the plurality subscriber televisions. Given that Wang relates to an individual interactive session, Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art provides no incentive for modifying the system to make an individual’s selected internet information available as a television channel.

Mao fails to disclose making web pages into television signals sent on a television channel for display. Rather, the system of Mao requires a browser application in each settop box. The web page data is sent as HTML data to the settop box browser. Mao certainly does not satisfy the deficiency in Wang lacking separately selectable television channels to permit simultaneous viewing of the images by the web content server.

The Examiner's reliance on Mao for showing separately selectable television channels is misplaced. The broadcast HTML data of Mao is sent on all of the physical television channels so that the user can always access this HTML data and watch any T.V. channel at the same time. (col. 3, lines 12-16). The HTML data is merely sent as data, not "as the television channel" for simultaneous viewing. Mao also discloses simulcast and personalized data options. In all cases, the data is being sent as an HTML stream. In no case is the web page data sent as a television channel. Note that Mao states that "All the MORECAST content for the three services can be viewed through many data channels." (column 7, lines 18-19). Thus Applicants' invention of a system that permits subscribers to select a television channel and receive web page content simultaneously with any other subscriber selecting the same channel is neither taught nor described by Wang nor Mao alone or in combination.

Moreover, Wang and Mao both refer to interactive systems. In Wang, a user is interacting with a browser at the headend. In Mao, the user interacts with a browser at his settop. Given that both of these references refer to individualized sessions, Applicants respectfully submit that both references teach away from a system that makes the same succession of images available from a browser as a television channel for simultaneous viewing at a plurality of subscriber televisions. Applicants' invention is in direct contrast with the individualized experience taught and disclosed by both Wang and Mao.

Neither reference teaches or discloses sending compressed successive images "as a television channel" for simultaneous viewing. Neither reference provides a motivation to modify an individualized session into providing a widely available television channel. These references teach individualized browser sessions which teach away from Applicants' simultaneous viewing system.

Claim 24 has been amended to depend from claim 1. It thus now includes the limitation "as a television channel separately selectable at any of the plurality of subscriber televisions to permit simultaneous viewing on subscriber televisions at which the television channel is selected." Claim 25 has been amended to depend from claim 10 and thus now incorporates its limitation regarding delivery "as a television channel."

Claims 26-32 have been amended to avoid indefiniteness. Claim 26 likewise requires delivery "as a television channel." Claim 29 requires delivery "as a discrete

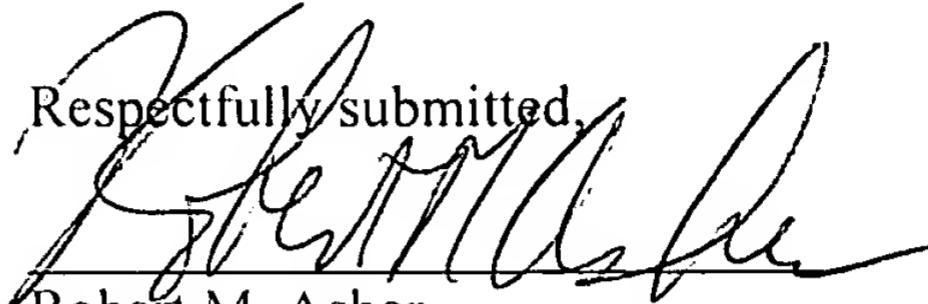
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digital television channel.” For the reasons cited above, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.


Respectfully submitted,

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